

LATENT PRINT EXAMINER
SENIOR LATENT PRINT EXAMINER

Class No. 005745
Class No. 005760

DEFINITION:

To perform latent (partial) print analysis and comparison work; to determine latent print usability for entry into Sheriff's Automated Latent Print System; and to perform related work.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Positions in this class series are non-sworn and are allocated only to the Sheriff's Department Crime Laboratory. This class series differs from the Forensic Documents Examiner class series in that the latter is responsible for identifying handwriting, mechanical impressions, authenticity of signatures, and alterations in documents, while the former analyzes and compares latent prints for the identification of persons.

Latent Print Examiner:

This is the journey level class in this series. Under general supervision, incumbents perform latent print analysis and determine usability for entry into the Sheriff's Automated Latent Print System.

Senior Latent Print Examiner:

This is the lead level class in this series. Under direction, incumbents provide technical guidance and leadership to the others in the latent print analysis and perform the most difficult latent print examination.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Determines if latent prints recovered from crime scenes are usable for comparison to known prints of individuals and/or for entry into the Automated Latent Print System (ALPS); retrieves completed images from the system; screens a list of candidates from ALPS system; requests known prints of possible candidates for comparison to latent prints; performs fingerprint comparisons utilizing magnifying glasses and photographic equipment; makes final determination as to the identity of prints; establishes, verifies, or excludes identifications by examining the ridge detail present in the latent print(s) and comparing it to the ridge detail present in the known prints; obtains major case prints by applying a thin coat of printers ink to the fingers, palms of the hand or sole of the feet of individuals and transferring the ridge detail to standard fingerprint cards; maintains chain of custody for latent and known prints; operates ALPS equipment; establishes and maintains a database of latent prints using the ALPS equipment; prepares written reports describing the examiner's latent print findings; provides information to interdepartmental representatives, local and state law enforcement agencies; prepares court exhibits; testifies in court as an expert witness in all aspects of latent print methodology and identification; gives oral presentations; and may assist in collecting, identifying, and preserving latent prints at crime scenes.

Senior Latent Print Examiner:

All of the duties listed above and: oversees assignments and unit casework; reviews casework backlog and coordinates duties and responsibilities of unit personnel; reviews and approves completed unit casework reports; provides technical

guidance and training to laboratory personnel engaged in latent print examination.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Knowledge Level: T = Thorough; G = General; -- = Not Applicable

Classification Level: I = Latent Print Examiner
II = Senior Latent Print Examiner

Knowledge of:

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G	T	Latent Print comparison and identification techniques.
G	T	Methods and procedures of automated latent print analysis and matching.
G	T	Standard terminology used to describe latent print details.
G	T	Data processing and automated latent print identification systems.
G	T	Photographic techniques, equipment and documentation used in latent print examinations.
G	T	Development and preservation of latent prints.
G	T	Inking process and techniques used in major print taking.
G	G	Standard office equipment, including computer terminals and printers.
G	G	Effective case files, office practices and procedures.

Skills and Abilities to:

The following apply to both classes:

- Recognize latent print forms and patterns.
- Analyze and accurately trace latent prints.
- Operate photographic equipment.
- Compare and accurately identify latent prints by comparing latent prints to known candidate prints.
- Manage a large workload and meet specified deadlines.
- Maintain records, latent prints and latent print database files.
- Comprehend and retain factual information pertaining to laws, statutes, policies, and accurately apply what is learned.
- Take major prints.
- Establish and maintain cooperative-working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.
- Testify in court.
- Communicate effectively orally and in writing.

Senior Latent Print Examiner (in addition to the above):

- Provide technical guidance and training to laboratory staff engaged in latent print examination.
- Review the work of other Latent Print Examiners.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Education, training, or experience, which demonstrates possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities stated above. Examples of qualifying education/experience are:

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Latent Print Examiner:

1. A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in criminal justice, biology, chemistry, or a closely related field; AND, at least one (1) year of full-time experience comparing, analyzing, and identifying latent prints to determine the prints' usability in civil and criminal investigations; OR,
2. An associate 's degree from an accredited college or university in administration of justice, biology, chemistry, or a closely related field; AND, at least three (3) years of experience requirement stated above; OR,
3. Five (5) years of experience in comparing, analyzing, and identifying latent prints to determine the prints' usability in the areas of civil and criminal investigations.

Senior Latent Print Examiner:

A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in criminal justice, biology, chemistry, or a closely related field, AND at least three (3) years of full-time experience as a Latent Print Examiner in the County of San Diego or in an equivalent class in another law enforcement agency. Experience must have included comparing, analyzing, and identifying latent prints to determine the prints' usability in the areas of civil and criminal investigations. Additional years of related experience may substitute for the educational requirement on a year-for-year basis.

SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS:**License:**

A valid California Class C driver's license is required at time of appointment or the ability to arrange transportation for field travel. Employees in this class may be required to use their own personal vehicle.

Working Conditions:

Incumbents are required to use their eyes extensively to examine latent prints for fine differences. Work involves periodic exposure to caustic chemicals in a laboratory environment. Some evening and weekend work may be required and may include participation at crime scenes.

Background Investigation:

Must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness with no felony convictions. Misdemeanor convictions may be disqualifying depending on number, severity, and recency. Applicants will be subject to a thorough background check and voice stress examination.

Probationary Period:

Incumbents appointed to permanent positions in these classes shall serve a probationary period of twelve (12) months (Civil Service Rule 4.2.5).